

KARO-ECHO Membership Meeting

December 14, 2020

via Zoom

Attendees

NI6A	Don Simon
KJ6AAT	David Swanson
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey
KN6BUY	Tom Fattaruso
KN6BVF	David Naisuler
KN6CMP	Blake Yeaman
KN6CMR	Susan Yeaman
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow
KJ6IUV	Frans Kuypers
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske
KC6OBK	Marian Gade
KM6UBY	Edward Carney
KK6RED	Diane Richwine
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas
KJ6SWK	Annette McCoubrey
KM6UCF	Natalie DeJarlais
KK6UQX	Alvin Todd
KJ6WSS	Jay Fenton
KK6ZPM	Karen Leong Fenton
KF6ZNI	Molly Ong

Business session

- Hal opened the meeting and described its purpose and structure.
- November meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
- The meeting agenda was approved by the majority of attendees.

Election of Officers

- *Nomination committee report* by Don Simon: Natalie, Marian, Annette, Jamuel, Tom & Don comprised the nomination committee. There is no slate per se; but four people are willing to run. Don described the various roles and candidates, and stated that additional nominations were still welcome.
- *Election of officers for 2021*: Marian ran the election. She asked for additional nominations; none were forthcoming. Don moved that we accept the four candidates; Susan seconded. The four candidates were approved by all voting members, with none opposed and no abstentions. New officers took effect at the end of the

- December meeting.
- The officers are
 - President: Hal Graboske KK6NDF
 - Vice President: Howdy Goudey KE6BEE
 - Secretary: Tom Fattaruso KN6BUY
 - Treasurer: Larry Vanselow KK6GIO

Activity lead reports

- Radio Infrastructure* - BEE/NI6A
Don reported that this group has been in effect since KARO-ECHO began, ensuring that local equipment was maintained at locations including Hilltop School, Fire Station 65, Kensington Community Center, Harding School, and Tassajara Park. The group has also provided new hams with technical advice and equipment installations, including antenna setups at the homes of various club members. Howdy is the contact, and will arrange a crew as needed.

See the [Hardware and Software Infrastructure Technical Work Group](#) page on the KARO-ECHO website.

Training and licensing were discussed, and Don clarified that these topics are covered by the training/elmering committee as well as the [training section](#) of the website. Don also provides elmering, and there are two Google Groups where people can submit questions.

Hal wants to be more organized about training resources and would like it to be a focus area of the organization.

- Recruiting and Outreach* - SWK
Annette reported that few people have been licensed lately, but there are numerous existing licensees on whom we can focus. She has drafted a letter to encourage existing hams to get involved, which she will distribute for feedback. Annette suggests taking them door to door to save on postage. Hal mentioned that we've done a mailing in the past, but knocking on the door might be more effective. This engagement effort will be a focus in the coming year.
- Training and Operations* - BEE
Howdy would like to get more people involved in training, including the semiannual SETS. Howdy is also the emergency coordinator and needs volunteers -- in addition to Don -- to assist with that role as well.

Activities could grow beyond the weekly nets, and we could schedule practices at other times. Hal mentioned that the Net Control roster has helped to get more people involved in understanding how the Net operates and what's involved. Getting people

to come forward and take a piece of the responsibility will help build a group of people who are skilled in case of an emergency.

See the [training section](#) of the website for additional information. Hal wants to formalize the elmering group because it's so essential. Will discuss in the January meeting.

- *Funding - GIO*

Larry mentioned that membership renewals are due January 1. We had 19 members in 2020; there were 23 the previous year. He's working on an online payment system for membership & donations and is leaning toward PayPal. Rob will attempt to link it to the website.

Grants: Howdy found a good source for funding; Larry needs to know our requirements and costs in order to prepare a proposal.

- *Records and Communications - UCF*

Tom is interested in recording the meetings because he might find that helpful for the minutes. Howdy is normally the host and will need to enable recording by participants.

Karen moved that we record the membership meetings; Annette seconded. Motion passed. A transcript of the meeting will be available to Tom, who will be in charge of the video recordings.

- *Web, Internet and Data Management - RJM*

No updates. Don and Howdy have been updating the site. Rob looked at migrating off Google Sites, but it would be a lot of work.

- *Miscellaneous input from members*

Karen requested that neighborhood Em Comm teams exchange information about what's working and not. These activities are taking off, and we should think about the training activities so that we're cross-pollinating across cities. She suggested that information sharing could occur during membership meetings, or at the end of the Thursday check-ins.

Don requested an update on the recent gifts of equipment and requested that Hal discuss the dispensation. CERT water barrel sales profits allowed the purchase of 20 GMRS radios with alkaline battery packs. We were given 15; Chris Hilliard kept 5 for emergency use. The 15 are to support CERT, but we don't have CERT communications people with whom to discuss at this point, nor a way to distribute them right now. Hal will make the determination of distribution. Hal has contacted Mike (EC9) about whether he has any use for them. Hal states that they are not the property of KARO-ECHO, but of CERT; KARO-ECHO is entrusted to distribute

them. Hal agreed to put together a committee to look at how to distribute the radios. Marian volunteered for the committee.

Training and Operations (led by KE6BEE)

Howdy presented information on digital modes for emergency communication, including MESH networking. This presentation was partly motivated by the news that the SFWEM mesh network recently received a \$100k grant from ARDC. The ARDC recently got a windfall of \$108M from selling off 1/4 of their IP4 addresses to Amazon. They have invested this nest egg and plan to issue grants of roughly \$1-5M annually, primarily off the interest.

The information covered in this training is covered in detail in the [December 2020 newsletter](#).

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.